

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Student honors 9/11 victims with artwork, P. 2

"News from Next Door"

SEPTEMBER 21, 2011 - SEPTEMBER 27, 2011

50 cents

## Solar eco industrial park planned on US 17

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

A Charlotte company is planning to build an \$85 million solar farm in five phases on property on US 17 near the Perquimans/Chowan county line. County commissioners

recently approved a conditional use permit for a large scale solar power generating facility on about 100 acres on the northwest side of Ocean Highway South between Long Lane and 105 Davis Lane. The project, created by Solar Green Development, LLC,

### How much energy created?

The project is expected to generate 20 megawatts of energy or enough to power 2,800 homes.

will be known as the Solar Green Davis Lane Eco-Industrial Park. Shelley Layden, vice

president/business development for SGD, said the company hopes to start construction and have so-

lar panels in the ground by the end of this year.

"For the past two and a half years, I have had a passion for developing alternative energy for homes and power production," said Layden who is also president/owner of Cross Country Homes of Eastern

NC. In studying the business, and receiving certifications in classes, Layden became a believer that a renewable energy facility would be a good match for Northeastern North Carolina.

See SOLAR, 4

## Officials conduct sex offender sweep



STAFF PHOTOS BY CATHY WILSON

Law enforcement officers checked the residences of 32 convicted sex offenders in Perquimans County last week during a regional effort to enforce compliance with the Sex Offender Registry. Deputy Quinton Jordan (l-r), Deputy U.S. Marshal Brandon Taylor, task force officer Will Britton with the U.S. Marshals Service, and probation officer Telonna Hinton enter a local house.

## Operation Paladin nets one arrest

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Local deputies joined forces with federal marshals and state probation/parole officers last week in a regional effort to make sure convicted sex offenders are abiding by the law.

Law enforcement officers checked residences of 32 convicted sex offenders in Perquimans during Opera-

tion Paladin, a five-county operation spearheaded by the U.S. Marshals Violent Fugitive Task Force.

One arrest was made, one sex offender had absconded, and a third was already in jail facing a murder charge, said Perquimans Sheriff Eric Tilley.

"The rest were located



Wilkins

and found to be in compliance with the law," he added.

County deputies, who were also deputized by the U.S. Marshal Service for this operation, divided into two teams along with probation/parole officers

and two deputy marshals. They swept the county starting early Tuesday morning, knocking on doors to see if

the convicted sex offender lived where he or she is supposed to live. By the time a few residences had been checked, Tilley said convicted sex offenders not at home were calling into the Sheriff's Department to report their whereabouts.

Only one, Thomas M. Vaughn-age 44, was found living in a location different from the address registered

See OFFENDERS, 4

## Schools now staffing 3 psychologists

By PETER WILLIAMS  
The Daily Advance

Perquimans County, with 1,800 students and four schools, now has three masters degree level psychologists on staff, plus a coordinator.

"I don't know of any school system our size with a program like this," said Joe Bunch, director of intervention and psychological services for the school system.

The program was made possible by a two-year, \$275,000 grant from Kate B. Reynolds Trust and support from East Carolina Behavioral Health.

*"I would also speculate we're one of just a few school systems that has mental health services embedded administratively in the school system."*

Joe Bunch

Intervention and psychological services director for Perquimans Schools

"My staff has essentially doubled," Bunch said. "Our (school) system is no different than any other system in terms of prevalence. Studies have suggested that as many as 21 percent, or one in five children experience signs and symptoms of emotional or behavioral difficulties. One of the things we're providing is much more emphasis on prevention and early intervention and not just focusing on the kids that have a lot of difficulties."

Having the staff on board means Perquimans can offer help early, and hopefully stem

See STAFFING, 8

## Car overturns off US 17; 1 injured

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

One woman was flown to a Norfolk hospital last Thursday afternoon after the car she was driving crossed four lanes of U.S. Highway 17, ran off the roadway, went airborne and overturned behind a stand of trees and bushes.

Hertford firefighters, EMS rescuers, and local law enforcement officers worked to free Louise Rhoades, 66, who witnesses said was trapped behind the steering wheel of the car that landed on its top. She was later flown by Nightingale helicopter to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital where she was treated and later released that evening.

Eyewitness Steav Congdon said he was traveling southbound on US 17 south of McDonalds when he saw the car in front of him first veer to the right and then back to the left, crossing the two southbound lanes. The car then crossed the median into the northbound lanes of the four-lane divided



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Firefighters, rescuers and law enforcement officers carry Louise Rhoades after extricating her from her overturned car on U.S. 17 Thursday. Rhoades was flown by Nightingale Medical helicopter to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital where she was treated and later released.

highway and continued to the ditch where it went airborne through a stand of bushes and small trees. The vehicle came to rest upside down behind the trees between Wynne Fork Road and Edenton Road Street, barely visible

from the roadway.

"It looked like she lost complete control of that car," said Congdon. "I tried to help her, but her legs were trapped

See OVERTURNS, 4

## If rejected by FEMA ... appeal

From staff reports

A FEMA spokesperson says if you receive a FEMA denial letter after seeking financial help to recover from Hurricane Irene, don't give up.

"Always appeal," said Tim Tyson with FEMA. "Take your documents and go to a nearby center. Don't give up. Anyone who received any damage between Aug. 25 and Sept. 1 should apply."

As of last week, 88 people in Perquimans County had registered with FEMA averaging about 14 applications daily. Once you apply, everyone receives a FEMA letter explaining what the process is, what to do next, or how funds should be spent.

Applicants should not be discouraged if they receive a letter indicating they are ineligible or denied assistance. The letter provides an explanation of what steps need to be taken to change the status of their request for assistance. Applicants can take the letter to a disaster recovery center for help with the appeals process or call the FEMA helpline at 800-621-3362 (TTY at 800-462-7585)

See REJECTED, 4



## Arts & Crafts Show

Saturday, September 24 • 10 am - 4 pm  
Perquimans County Recreation Center  
Over 40 juried artists & craftsmen

Door Prizes • Food • Admission  
Artist Demonstrations \$2.00

